

***Department  
of  
Human  
Services***

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



\*Important story at this spot

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

---

TOPIC	PAGE
Abuse/Neglect	2-9
*Child/Family	10-15
Child Support	16-17
Health Care	18
Homeless	19-20
*Miscellaneous	21-26
Missing Children	27
*Welfare	28

# Search for missing boy takes police to Jackson

## Tip about Ricky leads to park; no clues found

*By Kelly Hassett and T.M. Shultz*

*Lansing State Journal*

*Published November 9, 2005*

JACKSON - A five-hour search of Ella Sharp Park by 40 law enforcement officers Tuesday failed to turn up the disappearance of a Williamston boy.

Ricky Holland was 7 when he disappeared from his home July 1.

A tip led to the search by five law enforcement agencies including Ingham and Jackson county sheriffs' office, city police, and Michigan State Police and Department of Corrections, said Ingham County sheriff's Detective Joy said.

"We were looking for any evidence that would lead us to Ricky," said Joy, who headed the search. "But there was no evidence he'd been there."

A helicopter and several tracking dogs were used to search the roughly 550-acre park, which included large open sections and dense wooded areas, Joy said.

Police have made no arrests in the child's disappearance, which sparked an intensive nine-day search and nationwide Amber Alert.

Police have searched for the child since July and have served search warrants four times on Ricky's parents, Tim and Lisa Holland, whom they've described as "persons of interest." The Hollands' attorney, Neil Rockind, has said that description has no meaning.

On Tuesday he said that Tim and Lisa Holland have passed polygraph exams. Tim Holland passed a recent exam, and both parents passed tests they took earlier in the investigation, Rockind said.

Although Tuesday's search yielded no trace of Ricky, tips in his disappearance continue to come in, Joy said.

Contact T.M. Shultz at 377-1061 or [tshultz@lsj.com](mailto:tshultz@lsj.com).

### **How to help**

- Ricky Holland, who was 7 when he disappeared, is about 3-foot-5 and weighs 55 pounds. He has blond hair and blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a gray shirt and red pajama-style pants.
- Anyone with information about Ricky is urged to call Ingham County sheriff's officials at (517) 676-8211.

# List of failures

*A Lansing State Journal editorial  
Published November 9, 2005*

By Thursday, the Michigan State Police is expected to report how many members of the state's sex offender registry are "missing" - not at the addresses that are listed for them.

More than 8,000 registry offenders aren't following state law now because they haven't reported new addresses or confirmed old ones with authorities.

And once again, the offender registry is shown to be more the stuff of political grandstanding than good solid public safety work by the folks at the State Capitol.

Since its inception in 1994, the sex offender registry has been plagued by inaccurate and out-of-date information and inconsistent oversight.

Rather than make the registry work, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Legislature prefer to spend their time on changing the rules of evidence in sex cases, or imposing new costs on schools and day care centers to conduct criminal background checks.

Lawmakers know how to fix the offender registry. They simply choose not to because it will cost money they want to spend elsewhere.

If Michigan is convinced a registry protects kids, it's incumbent upon taxpayers and lawmakers to team up to generate the money to operate it properly. Otherwise, the registry is a waste - and our children lose the protection.

-----

# Michigan should revamp policy on sex offenders

## Enforcing residency rules is an impossible task

*Wednesday  
November 9, 2005  
The Detroit News*

State lawmakers keep coming up with registries, fingerprint files and residency rules for sex offenders. And police agencies keep losing track of the offenders and their files. Maybe it's time to come up with a new policy on paroled sex offenders.

The Detroit News reported Tuesday that Michigan police have lost track of more than 2,400 convicted sex offenders who are required by state law to inform police when they move and report their new addresses.

In addition, 5,941 other sex offenders have failed to confirm their addresses to local police agencies and may not be residing at the addresses on file. Earlier this month, there were a record 37,916 offenders on the state's Sex Offender Registry.

The number grows by about 200 each month, state officials have said.

The problem of the disappearing sex offenders comes on the heels of a disclosure that the Michigan State Police destroyed the fingerprint records for thousands of public school employees for lack of space to store them. The fingerprints were required by a 10-year-old state law demanding that school districts conduct background checks on employees to screen them for sex offenses, among other violations.

New digital equipment will make that chore easier, but now school employees have to repeat the process of being fingerprinted, which is expensive.

And lawmakers have just passed, and the governor signed, a statute requiring that sex offenders cannot live, work or loiter within 1,000 feet of a school. The problem with this law is obvious: If police cannot say with certainty where more than 8,000 sex offenders live, how can they enforce the residency restriction regarding schools?

The issue here is not the State Police or local police. They just conducted a joint sweep to locate sex offenders, and the results will be known later this week. The Wayne County Sheriff's Department conducted a similar sweep at the beginning of the school year.

But such operations are expensive, and as a State Police spokeswoman told The News, the state doesn't allocate funds for such checks, so they must compete with other law enforcement priorities.

The real issue is whether a sex offender registry or the residency rule is the most effective way to deal with such offenders. There is the issue of continuing punishment after an offender has served his or her sentence.

As some psychologists and penologists have argued, not all sex offenders are the same.

Stigmatizing all of them with a public registry for 25 years may isolate them from their families and communities and damage their rehabilitation.

It may well be that more intensive monitoring and treatment of the most dangerous sex offenders, including child molesters, may be a more effective way to deal with them. Obviously, anyone with such a record shouldn't work around children, which is why maintaining fingerprint records of school employees is important.

But simply slapping their names on a registry and periodically losing track of them doesn't appear to be a workable policy.

# Some sex offenders tough to track

By KURT HAUGLIE

*Gazette Writer and the Associated Press*

*The Daily Mining Gazette*

LANSING - Police don't know how to find 2,405 convicted sex offenders who failed to report their new addresses within 10 days of moving as the law requires, according to state police. Also, 5,941 others on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry didn't confirm their addresses to local police, the latest state police statistics show. Authorities therefore are unsure whether those offenders still live at their addresses of record.

State law says that people convicted of sex-related felonies must confirm their addresses four times a year. Those convicted of sex-related misdemeanors must report once a year. Most of those on the registry must report to local police for 25 years.

A sex offender's failure to confirm an address is a misdemeanor that carries a penalty of up to 93 days in jail. Failure to report a move is a felony carrying a sentence of up to four years in prison. Michigan created the registry in 1994. It had 37,916 names as of Thursday. Of that total, 23,885 are required to report their addresses. Those in prison or out of state need not report.

On Oct. 15, 8,346, or 35 percent of the 23,885, were listed as "absconders."

For three weeks through last week, personnel from all 63 state police posts were assigned to work with local police to see if sex offenders lived at their registered addresses.

A report on the results likely will be released Thursday, state police spokeswoman Shanon Akans told The Detroit News.

"Significant time and effort went into this effort to increase compliance with the registry," said Akans.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is a former state legislator and helped start the registry. He said he would like to see state grants to help local police pursue those who fail to report.

"It's real frustrating, because the fact is that you have more than 8,300 people out there who have committed a crime" by failing to confirm or report addresses, Bouchard said. "It makes me want to know where they are and what they are doing."

## **Police: 2,405 sex offenders haven't updated addresses**

Police don't know how to find 2,405 convicted sex offenders who failed to report their new addresses within 10 days of moving as the law requires, according to state police.

Also, 5,941 others on the Michigan Sex Offender Registry didn't confirm their addresses to local police, the latest state police statistics show. Authorities therefore are unsure whether those offenders still live at their addresses of record.

State law says that people convicted of sex-related felonies must confirm their addresses four times a year. Those convicted of sex-related misdemeanors must report once a year.

Most of those on the registry must report to local police for 25 years.

- From staff and wire reports

# Baby Drowned as Mother Listened to CD's, Prosecutor Says

By LESLIE KAUFMAN

*Published: November 9, 2005*

*The New York Times*

A 16-month-old Brooklyn boy drowned in a filthy tub in a bathroom with no working light on Sunday while his mother spent 40 minutes in the next room playing CD's, prosecutors said yesterday as the city's Administration for Children's Services said it was starting its own full investigation of its handling of the troubled family.

Prosecutors said the boy, Dahquay Gillians, was found face-up in the bathtub by his mother, Tracina Vaughn. They said her companion checked on Dahquay and his brother, Tramel Vaughn, after arriving at her apartment in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Sunday evening and, thinking that the 16-month old was behind a shower curtain, left briefly to buy diapers and beer.

The Administration for Children's Services, which has been monitoring the family since Ms. Vaughn was arrested after a previous companion scalded Tramel with hot water in May 2004, said an initial investigation of the drowning showed its own caseworkers had been checking on the children at least twice a month recently. They had been in the apartment only last week, when the children were seen and found to be well fed and cared for, it said.

"We intend to gather all of the facts that will tell us what led to this child being in danger," said John B. Mattingly, the commissioner of children's services.

But interviews and a review of records showed there had been numerous signs of trouble in recent months.

The mother had violated the terms of her probation that followed the scalding by testing positive for marijuana.

She was required to attend drug counseling classes, and when she missed one, a probation violation was issued, according to a spokesman.

Also, Pat Bath, a spokesman for the Legal Aid Society, which provided law guardians for the two boys, said Ms. Vaughan missed a court appearance in October meant to monitor the children's well-being. Alarmed, the lawyers then asked that Ms. Vaughn bring the two boys to their offices.

The visit was scheduled for last Friday. Legal Aid said she never showed up. A.C.S. said its records showed she did make a court appearance in October, although the spokeswoman was unsure if she and the Legal Aid Society were talking about the same hearing.

The harrowing details of Dahquay's last moments in the apartment, at 355 Herkimer Street, were described in court yesterday as his mother stood silently at her arraignment. She was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and reckless endangerment.

Prosecutors said she spent 40 minutes playing CD's and searching for sanitary napkins, looking once in that time in the bathroom - which had no working light - to check on the children. The bathroom was so dark the mother herself was afraid to shower there, one law enforcement official said. "The conditions of the place were horrific," the official said.

Prosecutors said Ms. Vaughn's companion, whose name was not divulged in court, whom neighbors identified only as Gary, did not see the boy when he arrived in the apartment, thinking he was behind a curtain, and then left briefly. He is not a suspect, law enforcement sources said. Neighbors said he had moved in with Ms. Vaughn recently.

"His mother sees the 1-year-old face down in the tub," said Wilfredo Cotto, an assistant district attorney. He said that the companion performed CPR on Dahquay, and "a large amount of water was extracted from the child."

In March, Ms. Vaughn pleaded guilty to reckless endangerment of Tramel. Her previous companion, Tyrone Gillians, had placed the boy in scalding hot water after he soiled himself with excrement. The couple waited two days to report the burns, which oozed puss and covered 80 percent of his body.

Mr. Gillians was found guilty of assault, and imprisoned. Ms. Vaughan was placed on probation for not seeking immediate medical care for Tramel.

The Administration for Children's Services took Tramel into protective custody and placed him in foster care with a maternal cousin, Latisha Bond, in June, 2004.

Dahquay was born in July 2004 and was also placed with the cousin, who lives in Mastic, N.Y. Officials at the child welfare agency said both children were moved to a foster home closer to their mother in November 2004.

According to the agency, while the children were in foster care, their mother attended parenting classes and received individual therapy and counseling.

In March, a Family Court judge, identified by Legal Aid as Susan S. Danoff, ordered the children reunited with their mother and required the agency to supervise the family.

"There is no indication that our people did not do their basic job," Commissioner Mattingly said, "but there is going to be a second phase of this assessment to ask why we made the judgments we did with the information we had.

"Is it possible everyone involved took a certain angle and were missing some of the options," he said in response to a question of whether the agency had been overeager to return the children. "We have to look at all of those questions."

Ms. Bond, the cousin who had cared for the boys for part of their time in foster care in her tidy Long Island home, said, "The system failed again." She added: "We had several contacts with A.C.S. They knew what was happening and they did nothing. A.C.S. neglected the children."

Dahquay's death put a spotlight on the child welfare agency's policy of keeping troubled families together, theoretically under tight supervision.



As a result of that policy, the number of children in foster care in the city has dropped to a little over 17,000, down from a high of 49,000 in 1991. Meanwhile, the number of children who are victims of abuse or neglect who are being given services in their homes has grown to more than 35,000.

Child welfare advocates have begun to worry whether the agency has become too rigid in its commitment to keep families together and is not carefully evaluating each individual case.

"One of the concerns that I have had for a while is the belief that simply reducing the population necessarily means we have a better system," said Marcia Lowry, the executive director of Children's Rights Inc., a nonprofit group that issues periodic reports on New York's foster care system.

"It is really important that there be quality preventive and protective services," she said. And the city does not now have, nor has it had for years, a way to evaluate whether it is getting high-quality services for its money, she added.

After Ms. Vaughn's arraignment, her lawyer, Larry Rothstein, said that she maintained her innocence. He said he had asked that she be placed on suicide watch, and said he had requested that she be in held protective custody, in case "other ladies in the jail get wind of this."

*Ann Arbor News*  
*Letters to the Editor*  
*November 9, 2005*

## **Race should not be factor in achievement**

Perhaps the reason Ann Arbor schools have not succeeded at closing the gap between black and white student achievement is because of their assumption that the most important issue is race. Are they sure that there is no variable or set of variables that correlates more consistently with academic failure than racial origin? Is it possible that factors such as household income, a lack of role models, family problems, low education levels of parents, or specific family or cultural values may be more accurate predictors of academic problems than being black? Is the achievement level of African students the same as African American students? Has anyone studied which variables most consistently correlate with academic success or failure among Ann Arbor students?

If we can identify the real social, familial and cultural factors that hinder academic achievement, we can then seek appropriate means to help all the students who are at risk, regardless of race. But to continue to view scholastic achievement through the spectacles of race is a recipe for continued failure and perpetuates racial stereotyping.

Peter S. Williamson, Ypsilanti

# Program for kids pulls no punches about gun violence

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

*By Betty DeRamus / The Detroit News*

The bullets from small caliber semiautomatic weapons bounce around inside a body and rip up organs, but the bullets from an Uzi can tear off someone's head.

And in 2003, four children ranging in age from 1 to 11 were shot by someone armed with a 12-gauge shotgun while the children sat in their family's car. Only one child survived.

Once upon a time, those might have seemed like odd lessons to share with 200 Highland Park youngsters in kindergarten through fifth grade.

However, according to U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, people using firearms cause more than 90,000 injuries in the United States and more than 1,000 deaths in Michigan every year.

So it makes sense that Murphy and other officials are talking about bullets and bodies in a school this week and hoping youngsters sign pledges promising to shun violence.

We're losing the war

As I write this, I have no idea who is the mayor of Detroit and who won seats in other elections yesterday. However, I have a pretty good idea who's losing the wars being waged on our streets daily by criminals and irresponsible gun owners armed with AK-47s, .38 caliber snub-nosed revolvers and 9 mm semi-automatic pistols.

Some victims belong to drug gangs, and others are shot during domestic disputes, quarrels, robberies and drive-bys. And some are children who played with guns or got caught in the crossfire of other people's anger.

Project Safe Neighborhood, a Department of Justice anti-violence initiative launched nationally in 2001 and in Michigan in 2002, is trying to be the kind of program that mobilizes citizens and touches children.

That's why judges, prosecutors, state troopers, a trauma nurse and others are talking and showing slides about the legal, medical and social consequences of violence at B.E.S.T. Public School Academy in Highland Park this week. The program ends tomorrow morning.

The overall project is broader than school visits. It includes face-to-face meetings between parolees and law enforcement officials and public service announcements stressing that felons caught with guns will do hard federal time with no chance of parole.

It also includes 1-800-ATFGUNS, a number that citizens can call with anonymous tips about crimes.

Special effort for youths

Yet project participants make a special effort to reach youths. Among other things, young people need to understand that they can wind up doing time just because they ran into someone they considered a friend and agreed to hold onto that person's gun, said Jerome Drain, executive director of the Highland Park Weed and Seed program, part of Project Safe Neighborhood's network.

Program officials, Drain added, also meet with parents and arrange for those with weapons to receive gun locks.

Do such programs help? Considering the storm of violence raining on our heads daily, a better question might be what can we do to lessen the need for these programs?

*Betty DeRamus' column runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Metro. Reach her at 313-222-2296 or [bderamus@detnews.com](mailto:bderamus@detnews.com)*

*Ann Arbor News*  
*Letters to the Editor*  
*November 9, 2005*

## **Free eye and ear tests are invaluable service**

I am writing in response to your article in a Saturday edition entitled "Kids to get fewer eye and ear tests." Cutting back on free vision and hearing screenings in schools is an outrage. This service is important to our children, parents and educators. All you ever hear about is not leaving any child behind, but this could potentially leave many children in the "dark."

Working as a kindergarten teacher in an at-risk school district, I see the overwhelming need for free services such as these. Many of my children come to school with little or no health insurance. Vision and hearing tests may not be something parents are able to provide for their child; many times the basic required immunizations are difficult enough to obtain.

When problems are caught early by these free screenings, teachers and administrators are better equipped to help parents get in touch with free or low cost services to help their children. When educators are given a head's up, they can begin implementing strategies to help those children become successful in the classroom. And that's what's really important, seeing that children receive the help that they deserve.

Heather D. Bedolla, Ann Arbor

*NEWS IN A MINUTE*

*Detroit Free Press*

*11/098/05*

## **FAMILIES**

### **Novi expo to provide child ID portfolios**

The Michigan Child Identification Program will help metro Detroit parents take steps to ensure their children's safety.

At America's Family Pet Expo Nov. 18-20 in Novi, officials will make free portfolios that can help police find missing children. The expo will be at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River.

Each CD portfolio given to parents will include a color photo of the child; fingerprints; a recorded interview to capture speech, appearance, mannerisms and other characteristics; a dental impression; DNA from saliva, and a scent that tracking dogs can follow.

The portfolios will be made from 4-9 p.m. Nov. 18, 2-7 p.m. Nov. 19 and noon-6 p.m. Nov. 20.

By Frank Witsil

# EDUCATION

## LEARNING TO START ANEW: Forced north after Hurricane Katrina, kids from New Orleans are adjusting to school and life in Detroit

*November 9, 2005*

**BY TOM KRISHER**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

At the main entrance to John Trix Elementary-Middle school are thick steel screens over the doors and a little-used metal detector that has never turned up a weapon.

It's not much different from the school that Dant'e Brown attended in New Orleans just before Hurricane Katrina blew his family up north.

The kids in the Crescent City's Ninth Ward, the sixth-grader says, aren't much different from the ones in northeast Detroit, except he's smarter than his Motor City counterparts are.

"I reject that one," says his mother, Shirlene Dorest Brown. "We lost too much in school. I know there's a lot of adjustments he has to make."

Trix has become the place to adjust for 22 out of 30 children from New Orleans whose families made their way to Detroit in Katrina's aftermath.

Some, like Dant'e, are still in a transitional classroom that principal Wesley Ganson set up in a new satellite building on the school lot. Others who arrived earlier have been assessed, interviewed, tested and eased into the main building or other schools.

Nearly all, says Ganson, were behind their Detroit counterparts academically.

For Dant'e, it's his third school in four months through no fault of his own. He had started classes at Helen S. Edwards Elementary in New Orleans just before Katrina hit on Aug. 29.

His mother, knowing that they lived in a low-lying area, took her family to the second floor of a public housing project before the hurricane struck. When the utilities were cut off to the project, they made their way to the convention center, where they spent two terrifying nights, Brown said.

A friend with a pickup loaded up 14 people and drove through the rain to Houston, where the family spent several nights in the Astrodome and a church before relatives found them. Dant'e, 11, and his ninth-grade sister eventually enrolled in Houston schools, but after two weeks of class, Brown got money from the Red Cross to buy train tickets to Detroit, where her sister lives. On Oct. 24, they landed in the neighborhood near Trix, and they're now living in a three-bedroom house she rented near the school.

"I'm looking forward to making this my home," said Brown, who hasn't been back to her old house and has no desire to. "The government system failed."

Dant'e, wearing his school-issued uniform, says he misses New Orleans, but he, too, doesn't want to go back because he feels safer in his new home.

In the transitional classroom, Dant'e and two brothers from New Orleans, John and Corey Russell, eat breakfast, write in journals, do math worksheets and take turns at a lectern reading to each other.

John Russell, 14, has been living with his family for about a month in a Howard Johnson hotel in suburban Southfield. He misses his friends and his church, and says he doesn't know what happened to his girlfriend.

He'd like to go back home, but says that's up to his grandmother, his legal guardian.

"I don't want to keep moving and moving different places," he said. "The only place I really want to go back to is my home."

## **Senate OKs custody bill for military parents**

Military parents serving overseas could not lose custody of their children because of their deployment under legislation moving toward Gov. Jennifer Granholm's desk.

The state Senate on Tuesday voted 37-0 to approve two bills that would prevent a court from making a permanent decision about a child's custody based on a parent's absence because of military duty. The legislation now heads back to the House, which approved it last month.

State lawmakers have heard from Joe McNeilly, a National Guardsman from Grand Ledge who said he lost custody of his son after spending more than a year in Iraq. The boy's mother and her lawyer said the mother wanted full custody because she no longer found the soldier to be a fit father, and a court referee recommended against restoring shared custody.



# Courts anything but fair

*FLINT JOURNAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR*

*CLIO*

*THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION* Wednesday, November 09, 2005

*JOURNAL READER*

The article ["Spending day in family court heartbreaking," On Life column, Sept. 22, Page A3] and letter ["Replicate writer's experience," Your Views, Oct. 14, Page A12] on the family court system did not mention the discrimination and lack of compassion directed toward fathers who are regularly on the losing end of any custody litigation.

The statistics don't lie. Fathers are being pushed out of their children's lives at an alarming rate. Our fine family court system has deemed it in the best interest of the child for their father's roles be limited to visitation every other weekend.

Our family courts' only goal is to collect the most child support funds it possibly can. Michigan receives federal dollars for amounts of child support collected. That explains why Dad is on the losing end since he is typically the bread winner.

Just like everything else in society: It's all about the money, not compassion and fairness like the article claimed.

The article also mentioned the large number of cases involving substance abuse. I wonder how involved their dad was allowed to be?

It will become worse when the affected Delphi workers attempt to get reductions in child support due to their lower wages.

James Derck

Clio

\*\*\*

*MIRS*

*November 9, 2005*

## **Concern Rising On Federal Medicaid Cuts**

The Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS) is fighting to kill a federal proposal to slash \$280 million from the already-strapped state Medicaid program by 2010 by eliminating states' ability to collect a tax on managed care organizations.

"This is an outright assault on the poor," said MLHS Director Sharon **Parks**.

The U.S. House wants to eliminate Michigan's tax on managed care with U.S. Rep. Mike **Rogers** (R-Brighton) calling it a loophole that needs to be closed.

Parks has a different take.

She argued, "We're doing this in order to pay for Katrina relief and to avoid taking back tax cuts to wealthy people ... "

The Granholm administration, which has also asked Congress to kill the cuts (See *MIRS*, Nov. 7, 2005), said some 360,000 children and 40,000 disabled could be impacted if the Michigan tax is eliminated.

Parks said she believes with one out of seven persons in the state receiving Medicaid coverage, those recipients will be forced to make a choice between higher co-pays or "not having the service."

Meanwhile, Rep. Gary **NEWELL** (R-Saranac) is heading up a House panel to explore cost savings within the Medicaid system. He is hopeful that alternatives to the Medicaid managed care levy and other similar programs could be eliminated without tearing the social safety net.

"That is our objective," he told *MIRS*.

*(Contributed by Senior Capital Correspondent Tim **SKUBICK**.)*

LANSING

## **LCC club organizing events to benefit homeless shelter**

*Lansing State Journal*  
*September 9, 2005*  
*Briefs*

Lansing Community College club People for Positive Social Change is organizing a three-part project to help raise money for the Volunteers of America and its New Hope Day Center, a homeless shelter at 430 N. Larch St.

The first part involves a street team of volunteers raising money and passing out literature throughout late October and early November. The second part will be a demonstration on Nov. 18 at the Capitol called the Portrait of Homelessness. Finally, a silent auction and benefit concert will take place at Dart Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 19. The concert will feature various musical acts and speeches. The suggested donation is \$7.

- Lansing City Community News

*Wednesday  
November 9, 2005  
Wayne Briefs  
Detroit News staff reports and wire services*

## **Redford Township**

### **Supplies for the homeless sought**

Township residents are asked to help observe Homeless Awareness Week Nov. 13-19 by dropping off toiletries, blankets, diapers and the like from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the community center, 12121 Hemingway. For information, call (313) 387-2788.

# Mary Marois Honored for tireless work

Human services organization recognizes Marois as 2005  
Collaborator of the Year

*By Carol South*  
*Herald Contributing Writer*

Merging compassion, service and passion, Mary Marois knows she has the best job in the world.

Even after 37 years in the human services field, the director of the Grand Traverse/Leelanau Department of Human Services is still excited about coming to work, helping others and making a difference in her hometown. Every day, she is lit up by the work her staff of 54 people accomplishes - plus the connections forged among the myriad other health, education and human services organizations to help those in need.

In one way or another, Marois' agency impacts more than 6,000 people in the region.

"I wonder almost if I would be this passionate if it didn't work," said Marois, a graduate of St. Francis High School and a Northwestern Michigan alumna. "But the fact that it works and you see the benefit of it on a daily basis, that's where the passion comes from. We are making a difference."

The Grand Traverse Collaborative recognized Marois for her dedication and commitment last month at their annual meeting by giving her their Collaborator of the Year Award. Director Barb Lemcool noted that Marois is characterized by a "how can it be done" attitude. Basically, she is unstoppable; a crucial trait in an era of shrinking funding for agencies and burgeoning challenges for families and individuals.

"She is wonderfully creative, and an amazing problem solver," noted Lemcool. "She is also a convener that brings the right people together - checking

their egos and turf as they come up with strategies that impact our community."

The Grand Traverse Collaborative, formerly the Human Services Coordinating Council, bestowed the award at its annual meeting last month. Organizers of the event managed somehow to keep the honor a secret from Marois despite her involvement in just about everything. Using a time-tested tactic of a decoy, they led her to believe up until the minute that Mary Lee Lord, executive director of the Women's Resource Center, would be the recipient.

"All of a sudden they started talking and I was thinking, "I didn't know she was involved in this," recalled Marois of the ceremony, though she quickly caught on.

"It is such an honor to be recognized by the people that I have so much respect for," she added. "That award could have gone to so many people who tirelessly day after day after day to make this work."

Calling her job a labor of love, Marois began her career in Traverse City in 1968. After a year, she moved downstate and worked in the Kalamazoo and Lansing areas before returning north in 1982. She worked in the Antrim County area before transferring to Grand Traverse/Leelanau.

Marois is known for her ability to knit partnerships among diverse groups, with her ideas tapping organizations in education, human services, government, private sector, religious and health care area. She was instrumental in founding the Regional Health Care Coalition to serve uninsured people, is part of the Poverty Reduction Initiative's steering committee, and helped guide the creation of Miracle Manor and is part of a collaborative effort to revive it.

# Mrs. Michigan reached out to elderly, poor

*Wednesday, November 09, 2005*

*By Juanita WestabyThe Grand Rapids Press*

She was Mrs. Michigan 50 years ago and an avid volunteer throughout her life, such as delivering meals to homebound residents whom she described to The Press as "some beautiful people whose only drawback was that they were old and poor."

Nila Dreger, who called East Grand Rapids home two times, died Saturday. She was 86. Mrs. Dreger would go on to help begin the Women's Resource Center, the Kent County Kent Oaks Hospital's volunteer program, the Widowed Person's Service, and to run her daughters' Girl Scout Troop.

But her daughters were thrilled with the title.

"It was pretty exciting for us because we were little kids," said her daughter, Diane Penix of Grand Ledge.

"I remember going to Detroit with her and staying in the hotel" for the competition. As Mrs. Michigan, Mrs. Dreger visited the "Today" show and met Hugh Downs. Mrs. Dreger and her husband, Wayne, moved to East Grand Rapids in 1952 the first time and stayed about seven years.

Following Mr. Dreger's career as a chemical engineer, the couple also lived in Charlotte, Chicago and Covington, Va., where she founded that community's Meals on Wheels program. They moved back to East Grand Rapids in 1970 until Mr. Dreger died in 1975.

Mrs. Dreger moved to Kentwood, then lived the last four years in Grand Ledge.

Throughout her life, "she had this terrific ability to see something that needed to be done, and she just did it," her daughter recalled.

While living in the Chicago area, she taught Hispanic women how to sew clothing, using pantomime and moving the pieces of cloth around, because she didn't speak Spanish. She never lost her wit or her sense of priorities, her daughter said.

Just after she won her award as Mrs. Michigan, for her housekeeping, cooking, sewing and organizational talents, in 1956, she said, "I am not really a meticulous housekeeper. Your lasting monuments are your children."

Another daughter, Candace Roeder, of Delton, survives, along with five grandchildren. Services were pending.

## **Waiting for Drugs**

### **U.S. must better fund HIV treatment program**

*November 9, 2005*

*Detroit Free Press*

*Opinion*

Congress must act to reauthorize the recently expired Ryan White CARE Act with a healthy increase in funding, especially for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

The plan pays for medications and medical treatment for more than 100,000 low-income, uninsured or underinsured HIV patients. Still, nine states -- Michigan is not one of them -- have waiting lists of HIV-infected people who can't get the medication and care they need to prolong their lives. Without insurance or federal assistance, drugs and routine medical care for HIV patients can cost up to \$20,000 a year, or more. Ending those waiting lists would take an estimated \$300 million more a year.

"We usually think of dying from AIDS, without access to medication, as something that happens in sub-Saharan Africa, but it's happening in the United States," said Mark Peterson of the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project in Ferndale. Peterson was one of dozens of activists, health professionals and people living with HIV who attended a Campaign to End AIDS rally last week at the Community Health Awareness Group in Detroit. Ten cross-country caravans, including the one stopping in Detroit, headed for Washington D.C., to push for legislation affecting the care, treatment and prevention of HIV.

More than 1 million Americans are infected with HIV or AIDS, and nearly three of four of those are uninsured or on public assistance. Roughly 40,000 new infections occur each year, so the demand for treatment will continue to increase, especially as infected people live longer.

It's unconscionable that, in the world's richest nation, patients can't get the life-sustaining medications they need. Fully funding the Ryan White CARE Act would at least provide an adequate safety net for low-income and uninsured people with HIV.



# U.S. deports illegal mom and U.S.-citizen kids to Kosovo

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*  
*Bay City Times Editorial*

## **Kosovo.**

The mention of this blasted enclave of the former Yugoslavia brings to mind the slaughter of thousands of civilians and a U.S. bombing campaign in 1999 to end the horror of "ethnic cleansing."

It now also makes us wonder what has become of a deported illegal immigrant from Sanilac County and her three American-born children.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent 45-year-old Marije Berishaj and her children, Geta, 13; Lazer, 12; and Clinton, 5, back to Kosovo, a war-torn country where United Nations troops, including those from the U.S., still are needed to keep an uneasy peace. Justice in this case was far too blind.

But the law, after all, is the law. Marije Berishaj arrived in the U.S. in 1991. Her passport expired in 1995. She was unemployed here, collected government benefits, and didn't have a visa or a green card for work that would have allowed her to stay here legally.

An immigration law judge ordered her deported on Oct. 21.

Wanting to keep the family together, she took her three children with her.

That's what is really sad about this family's saga.

The three kids, by all legal and cultural definitions born citizens of this country, were sent to a war-torn and dangerous place where most children end their schooling in the fifth grade. No matter what mom and dad did or didn't do to earn deportation, these children surely didn't deserve the fate they got.

Doesn't the Department of Homeland Security have bigger fish to fry?

And how does the department's new get-tough stance on illegal immigrants square with estimates that there are 10 million or more illegal aliens among us right now?

We sure don't see trainloads of aliens heading to our borders so they can be booted out of our country.

But then, such a massive action probably would have a huge impact on the underground market for cheap labor.

So we allow our federal agents to kick underage American citizens' moms out of the country while everybody winks at the gardeners, the housekeepers and the sweatshop workers who'll gladly work for low pay and no benefits if it means at crack at the American Dream. However illegal that may be.

Marije Berishaj's real crime appears to be unemployment.

That, and the boneheaded comment her husband, Martin Berishaj, apparently made when demanding more Social Security money for his disability. He allegedly told a federal worker she should have been in the World Trade Center when terrorists destroyed the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

He was kicked out of the country in 2002.

Now, tragically, the family may be back together.

In Dakovico, Kosovo.

Two former illegal immigrants who didn't bother to fly under Department of Homeland Security radar. And their three little U.S. citizens.

The Homeland Security apparatus worked perfectly.

Lady Justice was truly blind.

But nobody has an answer for the one stinging question that remains.

What about the children?

- Our View is the editorial opinion of The Bay City Times, as determined by the newspaper's editorial board, which includes the editorial page editor, the editor and the publisher.

# Amber Alert Issued For Missing 2-Month-Old

## *Child Suffers From Jaundice*

**POSTED: 6:44 pm EST November 8, 2005**

**Channel 4 Detroit**

An Amber Alert has been issued for a missing 2-month-old boy from Muskegon, Local 4 reported.

Michigan State Police said Hayden Russell suffers from jaundice and is severely malnourished. Russell is described as white, about 25 inches tall, 8 pounds, with gray eyes and wearing white and yellow one-piece snap-up pajamas.

Police said he was last with 16-year-old Angela Nichole Russell, possibly in a red 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix with license plate number AGC S56

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the child has been asked to call (800) 329-0911.  
*Copyright 2005 by [ClickOnDetroit.com](http://ClickOnDetroit.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed*

# Homecoming: Some state calls will be answered in Oscoda

*Tuesday, November 8, 2005*

*Bay City Times Editorial*

Michiganders making a phone call for help with welfare benefits in all likelihood will be greeted with flat, familiar Midwestern accents by June.

That's when Crusecom Technology Consultants, based at Oscoda's former Wurtsmith Air Force Base, will begin answering questions under a new contract with the state of Michigan.

Jobs that have been farmed out overseas are coming back home. Of course, it wasn't a big secret when the company that the state hired under former Gov. John Engler to help manage some state services sent call-center work to Mexico and India. No slam to those with foreign accents, but it was pretty obvious to some callers that their questions were being answered far, far away.

One man asked The Bay City Times about it in February 2004. The Times confirmed his suspicion that Michigan welfare benefit questions were being answered overseas. We asked Gov. Jennifer Granholm about the contract.

She was displeased, and issued executive orders giving preference to Michigan-based companies during the bidding process, and examining the bids for jobs sent overseas.

In early October, Granholm announced a \$48 million Electronic Benefits Transfer contract with the giant Affiliated Computer Services of Dallas, Texas, that included a subcontract with Crusecom for call center services.

Crusecom will add 20 jobs - maybe more - to its Oscoda operation as a result.

It's very good news for Iosco County-area workers.

And an excellent sign that the new information economy can sink its roots into our area. With a little helpful poking and prodding.